

City of Nashua
Division of Public Health and Community Services

Power Outages and Safety with Generators

Power Failures Happen

- Some of our biggest problems when dealing with emergencies occur when our power supply fails.
- Power failures most often occur because of storms, which can damage power lines or stations.
- Power failures may also be caused by extreme weather conditions like prolonged heat or extreme cold, which makes large demands on the power supply.

People Use Portable Generators

- Many people protect themselves against power loss by using portable generators and other gasoline appliances to create electrical power.
- These devices produce a gas in the exhaust called carbon monoxide (CO)
- Improper use of these devices can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Headache
- Tiredness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of consciousness

Protecting Against Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Never use gasoline powered tools within the home
- Place all gasoline-powered equipment outside and away from windows or air intakes
- Do not use gasoline-powered equipment in garages, campers, basements or other enclosed areas.
- Opening the windows and doors and running fans and doors may not be enough to prevent the build-up of CO in the home
- Get out of the house and seek medical help if you or a member of your household has symptoms of CO poisoning.